

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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O 230633Z MAR 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7155
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK 1512
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1360

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: RSA PRESS ON CARTER, USG AFRICA POLICY, SOVIET INTEREST,
MARCH 21/22

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY: PRESS WARY OF UNSC DEBATE ON RSA, WITH AFRIKAANS
(PRO-SAG) PRESS MORE DEFENSIVE THAT OPPOSITION ENGLISH PRESS.
AFRIKAANS PRESS APREHENSIVE RE PODGORNYY AFRICA VISIT AND CONTI-
NUE ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG. BLACK-ORIENTED PAPER
ADDRESSES STRONG EDITORIAL TO SAG. RSA BLACK LEADERS TO VISIT
USA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER "HOOFSTAD" MARCH 21 "IT IS
BECOMING CLEAR PRESIDENT CARTER IS A POLITICAL LI GHTWEIGHT.
WHILE THE SOVIET OFFENSIVE GAINS GROUND IN AFRICA
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THE WESTERN POWERS ARE PAPALYZED. THE CARTER ADMIN
BELIEVES TALKING TO MILITANT BLACK LEADERS WILL SOLVE ALL
PROBLEMS. BUT WHILE THE WEST IS THEORIZING, THE
COMMUNISTS ARE BEING PRACTICAL -- NOT ANGOLA, MOZAM-
BIQUE, ZAIRE. IF AFRICA FALLS INTO COMMUNIST HANDS THE
FAULT WILL LIE WITH USA, UK AND FRANCE AND THIS WOULD BE
ONE OF HISTORY'S BIGGEST TRAGEDIES."

2. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE VADERLAND" MARCH 21 SAID NEW USA ADMIN "IS DEMONSTRATING ITS IGNORANCE AND RELUCTANCE TO DEFEND WESTERN INTEREST IN THIS REGION, THUS OPENING THE WAY FOR SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION. USA SHAMEFUL RECORD IN ANGOLA IS MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE CAUSE FOR ZAMBIA LEANING TOWARD SOVIET INFLUENCE, BECAUSE ANGOLA DEMONSTRATED HOW SOVIETS PREPARED TO ASSIST THEIR ALLIES MILITARILY WHILE USA DROPS HER ALLIES AT CRITICAL MOMENT. RESPECT FOR POWER IS IN THE NATURE OF THE BLACK MAN AND HE SEES USA AND WEST AS FEARFUL, USSA AS POWERFUL. BLACKS WILL TRADITIONALLY LEAN TOWARD THE POWERFUL."

3. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER "OGGENDBLAD" MARCH 22 PREVIEWED UNSC DEBATE ON RSA "STARTING AT TIME OF POLITICAL INSECURITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE U.N. SHOULD LOOK AT RSA IN PRACTICAL TERMS AND LOOK AT FEASIBLE CHANGES HERE. THIS REGION DESERVES MORE THAN JUST RHETORIC."

4. JOHANNESBURG BLACK-ORIENTED "THE WORLD" MARCH 22 NOTED UNSC DEBATE AND AFRICAN TRAVELS OF PODGORNYY, CASTRO. PAPER SAID "WE OPPOSE COMMUNISM BECAUSE IT IS AN IDEOLOGY WHICH HAS GONE FURTHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN SUBVERTING HUMAN RIGHTS. WE DO NOT FOR A MOMENT BELIEVE EITHER RUSSIA OR CUBA HAS ANYTHING TO OFFER RSA. THE SAG IS ALSO QUICK TO POINT OUT THE TERRORS IN STORE FOR ALL OF RSA IF THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED A FOOTHOLD HERE. UNFORTUNATELY THE CREDIBILITY OF SAG IS SO LOW AMONG BLACKS THAT THIS THREAT -- AND WE DO NOT DOUBT IT IS A THREAT -- FALLS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON DEAF EARS. THE AUTHORITIES MUST BE AWARE OF THE REACTION AMONG BLACK PEOPLE WHEN THE STORY OF RSA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ANGOLAN WAR WAS TOLD. THERE WAS GREAT SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA FROM BLACKS -- NOT, WE BELIEVE, BECAUSE THEY WERE COMMUNISTS. RATHER BECAUSE THEY WERE FIGHTING RSA. THAT IS A BITTER PILL FOR A GOVERNMENT TO SWALLOW. BUT IT IS THE TRUTH. IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW OFTEN AUTHORITY TELLS THE BLACK MAN THAT COMMUNISM IS BAD IT MAKES ITS PACKAGE TO PEOPLE STILL IN BONDAGE AN ATTRACTIVE ONE. THAT IS WHY IT IS USELESS FOR AUTHORITY TO TRY TO IMPRESS BLACKS WITH JUST HOW BAD THE COMMUNIST IS. THE BLACK MAN TENDS TO SEE WHERE HIS HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SUBVERTED."

5. CAPE TOWN ENGLISH PAPER "CAPE TIMES" MARCH 22 SAW CASTRO/PODGORNYY VISITS "A CHALLENGE TO CARTER." PAPER SAID RSA "HAS BECOME A COCKPIT IN THE GLOBAL POWER BATTLE AND USA MUST AND NO DOUBT WILL ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD WESTERN INTERESTS. WHAT THE WHITE MINORITIES

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SHOULD REALIZE IS THAT AS THINGS NOW
STAND THE INTERESTS OF THE WEST AS SEEN FROM WASHDC
DON'T COINCIDE WITH INTEREST OF WHITES. WASHDC'S
CONCERN IS TO RETAIN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WESTERN RATHER
THAT WHITE SPHERE OF INTEREST. AS WASHDC SEES IT,
TO BACK THE WHITE MINORITIES WOULD BE TO PLAY INTO HANDS
OF SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS." PAPER CALLED FOR CLOSER IDENTITY
OF INTEREST BETWEEN PRETORIA AND WASHDC. "FROM RSA A
CLEAR COMMITMENT IN FAVOR OF WESTERN STANDARDS AND HUMAN
RIGHTS-- AND SCRAPPING APARTHEID--WOULD BE A MAJOR
STEP FORWARD." PAPER CONCLUDED "THE OMINOUS THRUST
OF SOVIET INFLUENCE INTO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA IS VERY MUCH
THE USA'S BUSINESS, WE SUBMIT" AND CALLED FOR FIRM USA
RESPONSE.

6. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "BELLD" MARCH 22
ATTACKED USUN AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOR "HIS OBSESSION WITH
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RSA; HIS MYOPIC VIEW OF AFRICA; HIS HOSTILITY TO WHITE SOUTH
AFRICANS WHO ARE AFTER ALL ONLY HUMAN; HIS NOTION THAT
BLACK MAJORITY RULE WOULD CREATE PARADISE HERE; HIS BULLYING
TACTIC OF PICKING ON SMALL NATIONS: WITH NO DEMAND FOR
MAJORITY RULE OR HUMAN RIGHTS IN USSR. MR. YOUNG'S
CREDIBILITY WOULD RISE IF HE REMOVE THESE BLINKERS."

7. JOHANNESBURG'S "RAND DAILY MAIL" MARCH 22 REPORTED
CISKEI HOMELAND CHIEF MINISTER LENNOX SEBE WOULD MEET
PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING UPCOMING
USA TRIP. SEBE REPORTEDLY INVITED TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC
CLUB IN WASHDC AND WILL DEPART RSA APRIL 18. PAPER ALSO
REPORTED MR. M.J. NAIDOO, PRESIDENT OF NATAL INDIAN
CONGRESS, WOULD DEPART FOR USA APRIL 30 ON TOUR SPONSORED
BY USG. REPORT QUOTED NAIDOO SAYING HE HOPED TO REQUEST
PRESIDENT CARTER "TO PUT PRESSURE ON MR. VORSTER TO BRING
ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE IN RSA."
HUGHES

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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